

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      SOFIA 00798 020909Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 SS-15 /049 W

-----128291 020918Z /21/66

R 281245Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4496

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0798

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, BU

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILY CASES: NEW EMBASSY REPRESENTATION

REF: A) SOFIA 0701; B) SOFIA 0514

1. ON PARIL 27, AMBASSADOR SUBMITTED TO CHIEF OF MFA FOURTH DEPARTMENT, AMBASSADOR GOTSEV, A CURRENT LIST OF 25 DIVIDED FAMILY HARDSHIP CASES. (THIS LIST, BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, IS BASED ON AND UPDATES THE ONE SUBMITTED REFTEL B.) GOTSEV ACCEPTED THE LIST, AND PROMISED TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT HIGHER LEVELS IN THE MINISTRY, AS WELL AS WITH THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT. WITHOUT REVIEWING THE LIST, AFTER NOTING THAT IT COMPRISED 25 CASES (INVOLVING ABOUT TWICE THAT MANY INDIVIDUALS), GOTSEV QUESTIONED WHETHER THER WERE REALLY THAT MANY GENUINE DIVIDED FAMILY HARDSHIP CASES. IN FACT, HE STATED TWICE THAT THERE WERE "ONLY 8 REAL  
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CASES". HE DID NOT EXPLAIN EITHER THAT SPECIFIC NUMBER (WE COUNT 14 CONTINUING CASES FROM THE NOVEMBER 1975 AND JULY 1977 LISTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED), NOR DID HE DISCUSS BULGARIAN CRITERIA FOR DEFINING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES (SEE REFTEL A).

2. GOTSEV ARGUED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT

CASES INVOLVING BULGARIAN CITIZENS SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH BULGARIAN OFFICIAL CHANNELS. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE SHOULD BOTH WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE CASES WHICH AROSE THROUGH ANY CHANNEL, AND IN ADDITION THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD A DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CASES RAISED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS. GOTSEV ACKNOWLEDGED THE LATTER POINT, BUT AGAIN ARGUED THAT BULGARIAN CITIZENS SHOULD WORK THROUGH OFFICIAL BULGARIAN CHANNELS.

3. EMBASSY IS NOT SANGUINE AS TO POSSIBILITY OF WHOLE-SALE FAVORABLE ACTION BY THE BULGARIANS. WE DO, HOWEVER, HOPE THAT SOME CASES WHICH MAY NOT HAVE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR LEVELS, AND OTHERS ON WHICH SENIOR LEVELS MAY HAVE EARLIER GIVEN APPROVAL SUBSEQUENTLY FRUSTRATED BY THE BUREAUCRACY, MAY BE FAVORABLY EXPEDITED. BEYOND THAT, WE HOPE TO GET A CLEARER PICTURE OF BULGARIAN CRITERIA AND OF THE BULGARIAN POSITION ON SOME OTHER CASES. IN GENERAL, GOTSEV GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF READINESS "ONE MORE TIME" TO TAKE UP A COMPREHENSIVE LIST, BUT HE ALSO REFLECTED A BULGARIAN VIEW THAT THE US MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP SUCH A FILE. A CAREFUL REVIEW OF OUR LIST, APART FROM SOME CASES ON WHICH THERE WILL BE DIVERGENT JUDGMENT, SHOULD DISPEL ANY SUCH NOTION THAT WE ARE DELIBERATELY INFLATING THE FILE.

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## Message Attributes

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